

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No. 3205
Hajime KIMURA) Group Art Unit: 2629
Serial No. 10/822,848) Examiner: Ke Xiao
Filed: April 13, 2004)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)
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RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed June 8, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 13, 2004; June 11, 2008; and March 9, 2009.

Claims 1-127, 129 and 130 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-7, 100 and 101 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-61, 68-127, 129 and 130 as obvious based on the combination of JP 11-125841 to Chiyou and U.S. Patent No. 7,196,699 to Kubota. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application.